

MINUTES
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 12, 2021

Meeting conducted via Zoom video conferencing. Handouts were emailed August 10, 2021 to include: (1) Agenda; (2) Minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting and (3) WRATS Project Status Report.

Chairman Randy Toms called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Jessica Bird	Randy Toms	Tiffany Sandefur	Opal Young	Harland Smith
John Harley	Tom Caiafa	Greg Boike	Bryan Wood	Kaniz Sathi

A motion was made by Mr. John Harley and seconded by Mr. Greg Boike to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as circulated. The motion was passed unanimously.

Share information on planning efforts in our area

Ms. Jessica Bird announced that there are two planning efforts happening right now in the Middle Georgia region. She said the first one is the Houston County Joint Comprehensive Plan, which includes the Cities of Centerville, Perry, and Warner Robins. According to Ms. Bird, the Joint Comprehensive plan shapes growth, development, and improvement and is required for governments to become Qualified Local Governments in Georgia. She said interested individuals could complete a short survey at <https://tinyurl.com/HoustonCompPlan21>.

The Middle Georgia-Robins Air Force Base Sustainability Plan is also underway, stated Ms. Bird. She explained that this plan supports the long-term viability of Robins Air Force Base, and encourages future mission expansion and local growth. According to Ms. Bird, more information can be found on the project website at www.robinsafb.com. She announced that the first public meeting was August 5 at the Georgia VECTR Center.

Mr. Greg Boike with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission said there was good attendance at the first public meeting last week. He announced that steering committees would be meeting soon and there are three more public engagement opportunities going forward with development of the plan.

Environmental Justice (EJ) data discussion

Ms. Jessica Bird used a PowerPoint presentation to explain Environmental Justice (EJ) and the transportation disadvantaged population. She described the socioeconomic characteristics of minority, low-income, poverty, disability, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and no vehicle availability. Ms. Bird used maps, charts, and U.S. Census Bureau 2010-2014 and 2015-2019 ACS 5-year estimates to illustrate these socioeconomic characteristics for Houston and Peach Counties. She stated that effective transportation decision making requires understanding and addressing the unique needs of many different socioeconomic groups.

Ms. Opal Young asked Ms. Jessica Bird what public transportation exists in the area? Ms. Bird mentioned the demand response service offered by Warner Robins Transit (W.R.T.) and a service from rural Peach County into the metropolitan area.

Ms. Young explained that she is a blind resident who is need of transportation to and from work and she has not been able to find any transit service that is not too expensive. Chairman Randy Toms, Mayor of the City of Warner Robins, said the City gives CDBG funds to local organizations that provide that type of service. He asked Ms. Young to call his Executive Assistant, Teresa at 478-302-5515 for information on how to get in touch with these organizations.

Update on WRATS Project Status Report

Mr. Harland Smith, GDOT District 3 Planning and Programming Coordinator, provided a project report with project manager comments to the committee members and briefly reported on most of the projects.

There being no further business, Mr. Tom Caiafa made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bryan Wood seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.